

**CLAIMS:**

1.(previously amended) A clip for releasably closing bags and the like comprising in combination a pair of jaws elongated in an axial direction;

hinge means disposed adjacent one axial end of said jaws to permit relative rotation thereof between an open position and a closed condition wherein said jaws are mutually confronting substantially along their length;

latch means comprising mutually engageable ratchet elements associated with said jaws adjacent the axial end thereof opposed to said hinge means for releasably latching said jaws in their closed position;

said hinge means comprising a hinge pin and bearings therefor associated with said jaws;

said hinge means and said latch means each being adjustable without necessitating the disassembly of said clip so as to permit the clearance between said jaws when in their closed position to be varied;

wherin said adjustable hinge means comprises a pair of transversely spaced apart, axially aligned cheeks associated with one of said jaws, each of said cheeks having a generally vertically oriented elongated opening therein, and a hinge pin slidable within said opening associated with the other of said jaws, and wherein said opening has a plurality of detents associated therewith for arresting the movement of said hinge pin as desired.

2-3.(canceled)

4.(previously amended) A clip as defined in claim 1 wherein said detents comprise recesses within which said hinge pin is seatable.

5. (Original) A clip as defined in claim 4 wherin the bearing path has a cardioid form wherein all diametric chords are equal.

6. (Currently amended) A clip as defined in claim 3 1 wherein said detents comprise a gear rack and said hinge pin is provided with a pawl selectively movable between interfering and non-interfering relationship with said rack.

7. (Original) A clip as defined in claim 6 wherein said pawl is unitarily formed with said hinge pin.

8. (Original) A clip as defined in claim 1 wherein said mutually engageable ratchet means comprises a plurality of ratchet teeth associated with one at least of said jaws.
9. (Original) A clip as defined in claim 8 wherein said plurality of ratchet teeth is mounted on a flexible finger.
10. (Original) A clip as defined in claim 9 wherein the latch means includes a locating frame, and wherein the dimension of said finger on approach to the distal end thereof is diminished to facilitate the entry of the finger into said frame as said jaws are moved from an open position towards a closed position.
11. (Currently amended) A clip for releasably closing bags and the like comprising in combination

a pair of jaws elongated in an axial direction;  
hinge means disposed adjacent one axial end of said jaws to permit relative rotation thereof between an open position and a closed condition wherein said jaws are mutually confronting substantially along their length;  
wherein said hinge means comprises a pair of opposed cheeks associated with one of said jaws, each said cheek having a bearing opening therein; and a hinge blade associated with the other of said jaws dimensioned to be snugly receivable between said cheeks;  
said hinge blade having a generally cylindrical hinge pin formed unitarily therewith to project outwardly therefrom on opposed axially aligned sides thereof engaged in said bearing openings;  
wherein said bearing openings are generally elongated orthogonally to said axial direction to permit a sliding movement of said hinge pin therealong, and wherein each said opening is provided with a plurality of detents for arresting said sliding movement as desired, and latch means for releasably retaining said jaws in their closed position comprising mutually engageable ratchet elements associated with said jaws, at least one said element comprising a flexible finger carrying a plurality of ratchet teeth.
12. (Previously amended) A clip as defined in claim 11 wherein said bearing openings permit the entry of the hinge pin into the bearing openings when canted.

13. (Original) A clip as defined in claim 12 wherein said cheeks form a part of a six-sided box open at two adjacent sides thereof.
- 14.(previously added) A clip as defined in claim 11 wherein said detents comprise recesses within which said hinge pin is seatable.
15. (Previously added) A clip as defined in claim 14 wherein the bearing path has a cardioid form wherein all diametric chords are equal.
16. (previously added) A clip as defined in claim 11 wherein said detents comprise a gear rack and said hinge pin is provided with a pawl selectively movable between interfering and non-interfering relationship with said rack.
17. (previously added) A clip as defined in claim 16 wherein said pawl is unitarily formed with said hinge pin.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (previously amended) A clip as defined in claim 11 wherein said latch means includes a locating frame, and wherein the dimension of said finger on approach to the distal end thereof is diminished to facilitate the entry of the finger into said frame as said jaws are moved from an open position towards a closed position.
21. (previously added) A clip for releasably closing bags and the like comprising in combination  
a pair of jaws elongated in an axial direction;  
hinge means disposed adjacent one axial end of said jaws to permit relative rotation thereof between an open position and a closed condition wherein said jaws are mutually confronting substantially along their length;  
wherein said hinge means comprises a pair of opposed cheeks associated with one of said jaws, each said cheek having a bearing opening therein; and a hinge blade associated with the other of said jaws dimensioned to be snugly receivable between said cheeks;  
said hinge blade having a generally cylindrical hinge pin formed unitarily therewith to project outwardly therefrom on opposed axially aligned sides thereof engaged in said bearing openings;  
wherein said bearing openings each form a part of a gear rack elongated in a direction

generally orthogonal to said axial direction, and said hinge pin is provided with a pawl selectively movable between a non-interfering position with said gear rack to permit a sliding movement of said hinge pin along said bearing openings and an interfering position arresting said sliding movement.

22.(previously added) A clip as defined in claim 21 wherein said pawl is unitarily formed with said hinge pin.

23. (previously added) A clip as defined in claim 21 further comprising latch means for releasably retaining said jaws closed.

24. (previously added) A clip as defined in claim 23 wherein said latch means includes a plurality of ratchet teeth mounted on a flexible finger associated with one of said jaws.

25. (previously added) A clip as defined in claim 23 wherein said latch means includes a locating frame, and wherein the dimension of said finger on approach to the distal end thereof is diminished to facilitate the entry of the finger into said frame as said jaws are moved from an open position towards a closed position.